Amendments to the Specification

1. Please amend page 1, lines 4-9 of the specification as follows:

The present invention is related to commonly-assigned U.S. Patents, all of which were filed concurrently herewith and which are incorporated herein by reference: U.S. Patent _____ (serial number [[09/_____]]10/007,446), entitled "Policy-Driven Kernel-Based Security Implementation"; and U.S. Patent _____ (serial number [[09/_____]] 10/007,582), entitled "Offload Processing for Secure Data Transfer"; and U.S. Patent _____ (serial number [[09/_____]]10/007,581), entitled "Offload Processing for Security Session Establishment and Control."

2. Please amend page 2, lines 2-5 of the specification as follows:

The present invention relates to a computer system, and deals more particularly with improving security in a networking environment (such as the Internet) by performing secure protocol functions (such as processing for the Secure Sockets Layer, or "SSL", or an analogous security protocol such as ~~Transaction~~ Transport Layer Security, or "TLS") in the kernel.

3. Please amend page 3, lines 8-18 of the specification as follows:

The current version of SSL is described in detail in "The SSL Protocol, Version 3.0", dated Nov. 18, 1996 and available on the World Wide Web (hereinafter, "Web") at http://home.netscape.com/eng/ssl3/draft3- 02.txt (hereinafter, "SSL specification"). An alternative to SSL is the ~~Transaction~~ Transport Layer Security, or "TLS", protocol. TLS is designed as a follow-on security technique to eventually replace SSL. (SSL ends with Version 3.0, and TLS begins with a Version 1.0 that is based on the SSL Version 3.0 specification.) TLS is being standardized by a working group of the Internet Engineering Task Force ("IETF"), and is documented in "The TLS Protocol, Version 1.0", dated January, 1999. This document is also

identified as IETF Request for Comments ("RFC") 2246. The message exchanges in the TLS protocol are analogous to those of the SSL protocol, and thus the interactions which have been described above apply in a similar manner to use of TLS in layers 110 and 160.